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PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

[ISSUED JULY 15TH, 1868.]

SESSION 1867-68.

Ninth Meeting, March 23rd, 1868.

SIR RODERICK I. MURCHISON, BART., K.C.B., PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

ELECTIONS.—*Philip P. Blyth, Esq.* (J.P. for Middlesex); *Gilchrist Clark, Esq.*; *Charles Cornish-Brown, Esq.*; *James Douglas, Esq.*; *Capt. N. D. C. F. Douglas*; *John Lee, Esq.*; *John Moffitt, Esq.*; *Archibald Gilchrist Potter, Esq.*; *Thomas F. Quin, Esq.*; *Alderman David H. Stone*; *Howard Unwin, Esq.*; *Alexander Wilson, Esq.*; *James J. Wilkinson, Esq.*; *William Young, Esq.*

ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY FROM MARCH 9TH TO MARCH 23RD, 1868.—‘*Plantæ Tinneanæ, sive Descriptio Plantarum in expeditione Tinneana ad flumen Bahr-el Ghasal, etc.*’ P. F. Tinné et J. A. Tinné. Donor, J. A. Tinné, Esq. ‘*History and Migration of Cultivated Narcotic Plants in Reference to Ethnology.*’ By J. Crawford, Esq. Donor, the author. ‘*Correspondence respecting Abyssinia, 1846-1868.*’ Parliamentary Paper. Purchased. ‘*Correspondence respecting Hostilities in the River Plate.*’ Parliamentary Paper. Purchased. ‘*Treatise on the Petroleum Zones of Italy.*’ By E. St. J. Fairman. Donor, the author. ‘*General View of the Frontier of Asia.*’ By M. Binieoff, St. Petersburg. Donor, the author.

ACCESSIONS TO THE MAP-ROOM SINCE THE LAST MEETING.—Map of the Republic of Nicaragua, by M. Sonnenstern. Presented by J. L. Hart, Esq., Consul-General. A Map showing the Route Survey of a Pundit from British India into Great Tibet through the Lhasa Territories and along the upper course of the Brahmaputra River. Presented by Captain T. G. Montgomerie, R.E., F.R.G.S. General Map of Europe, No. 12 of Stieler’s Hand-Atlas. Map of the

Basin of the Nile, by Dr. G. Schweinfurth. Map of the Balkash Lake, &c., by Babkow and Golubew. All presented by A. Petermann.

H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES and suite honoured the meeting with their attendance, and remained to the end of the discussion.

The PRESIDENT opened the meeting by saying that, before the paper was read, he was sure the Fellows of the Society would feel that it was the duty of their President to express the sincere gratification of the meeting that their Vice-Patron the Prince of Wales had been pleased to honour them with his presence. As a veteran in the pursuits of science he well remembered what real interest the lamented Prince Consort took in attending scientific meetings, and how justly he appreciated the importance of the discussions which arose at them. It was most gratifying therefore to find the Prince of Wales treading in the footsteps of his illustrious father. The presence of his Royal Highness at one of their ordinary meetings was not inappropriate, inasmuch as he had himself travelled more extensively than any former heir to the crown of England, and they might feel certain that he has formed a high estimate of that predominant feature in our national character, the keen desire to explore distant lands. As geographers they might feel proud that another son of our beloved Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, already enrolled as one of their honorary members, was making the grand tour of the British colonies, and would have seen, when he happily returned, more of the earth's surface than the great majority of practised travellers.

The following Paper was read :—

Report on the Trans-Himalayan Explorations, in connexion with the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, during 1865-7: Route-Survey made by Pundit —, from Nepal to Lhasa, and thence through the upper valley of the Brahmaputra to its Source. By Captain T. G. MONTGOMERIE, R.E., F.R.G.S.

[Extracts.]

A EUROPEAN, even if disguised, attracts attention when travelling among Asiatics, and his presence, if detected, is now-a-days often apt to lead to outrage. The difficulty of redressing such outrages, and various other causes, have, for the present, all but put a stop to exploration by Europeans. On the other hand, Asiatics, the subjects of the British Government, are known to travel freely without molestation in countries far beyond the British frontier; they constantly pass to and fro between India and Central Asia, and also between India and Tibet, for trading and other purposes, without exciting any suspicion.

In 1861 it was consequently proposed to take advantage of this facility possessed by Asiatics, and to employ them on explorations beyond the frontier. The Government of India approved of the project, and agreed to support it liberally.

With a view to carry out the above, Colonel Walker, the Superintendent of the Survey, engaged two Pundits, British subjects, from